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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am an a middle aged female of average intelligence who has been watching the Justice Department go after Microsoft for what it considers 'unfair and predatory practices' for several years now. I have heard both sides speak and I must say that while I believe that Microsoft did use practices that some may consider questionable, (There are also many who believe that WalMart, Intel and several others have done the same thing.) they were also improving the lives of many average Americans who would not be able to sit at their computers today and point and click to go wherever they want.

Before the Windows operating system became the industry standard, the average person, was not able to use a computer at all. Therefore Microsoft has helped bolster not only itself but also all the hardware and software manufacturers out there, including those who have come out publicly against them. I have heard more than one CEO of a large company make the claim that without Microsoft's innovation their job of running their company would have been made more difficult. Most of us don't even remember that this whole lawsuit began with a disgruntled company wanting to charge a premium price for what Microsoft wanted to give away free. (Netscape) Somehow this takes most of the meat out of the claim that Microsoft's practices are bad for the consumer. It may not be too healthy for the companies wanting to make money, but such is our wonderful free enterprise system. Only the strong will survive and Microsoft's very survival over the last years certainly is testimony to their strength among consumers. Yes, it may seem unfair that computer manufacturers have to pay extra to Microsoft to install Windows, but so would the consumers. They would probably rather see the consumer pay the extra money for Windows, which most will gladly spend. Windows is a licensed product and therefore it should cost manufacturers to install it. They should also keep in mind that computers would not be in as widespread of use and therefore bolstering computer company profits, if it weren't for their ease of use with the Windows operating system.

The Government also employs monopolistic practices in many of it's daily operations. I pay many taxes for things that I don't even know about and yet the Justice Department has not once suggested that the current systems be examined.

I recently had an unpleasant experience that convinced me even more that Microsoft has done only good for the average computer user. (I'm saying average now, not educated.) Our home computer was the victim of a virus which totally wiped out Windows. We were trying to use MSDOS to save important files and found it too frustrating and ended up reformatting our hard drive just so we could reinstall Windows. I am only one consumer, but I know that I speak for many when I say to the Justice Department, "LEAVE MICROSOFT ALONE AND LET THEM CONTINUE TO DEVELOP PRODUCTS WHICH MAKE

ALL OF
OUR LIVES (INCLUDING YOURS!) EASIER."

Thank You for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion. I love being an American...GOD BLESS AMERICA!!